

BIG WAGE CUT BY PHILA. BUILDERS

Employers in All Trades Unanimously Decide on 23.9 P. C. Reduction.

UNIONS REJECT SCALE

Refusal Based on Ground They Were Not Consulted in Framing of It.

PLAN FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Will Not Accept, Says Labor Leader, Calling Action a Lockout.

PHILADELPHIA, April 28.—Unanimous decision was reached to-day by employers in all the building trades of Philadelphia to reduce the wages of 65,000 workers 23.9 per cent. or from an average of \$1.16 to 88 cents an hour on May 1.

The builders adopted the lower scale in accordance with the report of their committee of twenty-three, headed by Edward J. Flannery. Future negotiations with the unions, which have refused to accept the new scale on the ground they were not consulted in the framing of it, are left in the hands of the committee.

The new scale, it is specified, are to apply to Philadelphia and vicinity "for those workmen who desire to work and for whom the employers have employment, with regard only for the reasonable efficiency and usefulness of each employee."

The builders' statement says "the purchasing power of the dollar has increased 37 per cent. since June, 1920, while conversely living costs have declined. The average wage in the building trades in Philadelphia had increased from 81 cents an hour in 1914 to \$1.16 in 1920, or 42.5 per cent."

The public, the builders find, "will not buy homes until costs have fallen to a fair level."

The new rates follow: Bricklayers, masons and plasterers, \$1; carpenters, elevator constructors, electricians, iron erectors, lathers, plumbers, roofers (slag and tile), sheet metal workers, steamfitters, soft stone cutters and hoisting engineers, 90 cents; cement finishers, dock builders, marble setters, painters, granite cutters, tile setters, pipe fitters and auto sprinkler setters, 80 cents; roofers (slag), 60 cents.

Daniel T. McKenna, secretary of the Council of Associated Building Trades, issued a statement to-night in which he declared labor would not accept the master builders' new scale of wages.

"It is not a strike but a lockout the builders are forcing upon us," the statement said, "and we will not accept it. If this is their ultimatum, then there will be no workmen report Monday morning."

The labor leader declared the men had been dealing directly with their employers for thirty-five years and would continue to do so or fight.

"We will, we ever agree to abandon the sympathetic strike," he added. "It is the backbone of our organization, for without it the employers, if they chose, could crush our unions one by one."

PRINTERS WILL CONFER ON 44 HOUR WEEK

Secretary of Labor to Preside at Meeting.

Joseph C. Orr, secretary and treasurer of the International Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, announced at the Hotel Continental last night that a conference would be held this morning in the offices of the Department of Labor between representatives of the printing unions and of the commercial employing printers.

The conference, Mr. Orr said, was called at the instance of President Harding and will be presided over by James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor.

The advisability of the forty-four hour week will be the principal subject discussed at the conference. Under an agreement between the employees and the unions the forty-four hour week will go into effect on May 1, and the conference will decide whether such a step is opportune.

PANAMA WAGE CUTS STAND.

Will Be Effective Until Weeks Makes Investigation.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Wage reductions in the Panama Canal Zone ordered by the Governor, Col. Morrow, will stand until Secretary Weeks completes the investigation of conditions in the zone he plans to make.

A delegation representing the canal workers presented a protest against the reduction yesterday, but were informed by Mr. Weeks that he would not countenance it at this time.

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BOSTON CLEVELAND SPRINGFIELD

WATER METER MONOPOLY MADE TIGHT BY ALDERMEN

Continued from First Page.

"I felt then my troubles were over, that my meter had met every test and at last I was to be allowed to do business—to earn a living in my home town."

"How long were you happy?" Mr. Untermyer wanted to know.

"Two days," the witness replied. "Two days after that I saw in the City Record that the resolution approving Commissioner Hayes's recommendation had been returned without recommendation, when in fact it was favorably acted upon."

Mr. Cetti then explained, and later was corroborated by former Alderman Allyn, that the circumstances precipitated a lively row in the Board of Aldermen, in which charges of forgery and unauthorized changes in the proceedings of the committee were flung and not satisfactorily met. On this point former Alderman Allyn said that Alderman Abraham Beckerman and Alderman Clifford S. Boswick, both of whom had voted in favor of the resolution in committee, charged that the committee's recommendation had been altered as it appeared on the calendar of the board by some one with an apparent object in defeating the favorable action. "That charge," former Alderman Allyn said, "resulted in Alderman Collins (Democratic majority leader) remarking: 'I'll give you a dose of your own medicine.' Then he turned thumbs down on the resolution."

When the committee adjourned yesterday, to resume Tuesday morning, Mr. Untermyer announced that opportunity would be given any of the city officials whose names were mentioned to appear and offer any explanation they desired to make.

To Abandon Price Fixing.

The other chief development, and in the mind of Mr. Untermyer, the more important, was the announced decision of Albert A. Ainsworth, secretary of thirteen manufacturers' exchanges through which detailed information of sales and prices were exchanged between members, to discontinue at once the system of reports on prices and sales. In the opinion of the committee's counsel this is tantamount to the disbanding of the organization as, he believes, it will leave little excuse for their further existence. The opinion was expressed that when this promise is fulfilled the committee will not find it necessary to proceed further along this particular line.

The testimony of Mr. Cetti made a distinct impression upon the committee. The Badger Company's meter, Mr. Cetti testified, had—and this was corroborated by Chief Engineer Meritt H. Smith of the Water Department—undergone endurance tests of fourteen months, provided by the department. It sold for approximately a third less than any water meter in use in New York but despite this he was unable to put it on the local market because the Board of Aldermen had not approved it.

The testimony brought out the fact that there are ten manufacturers of water meters in the United States, eight of which are members of the Water Meter Manufacturers' Exchange. These eight manufacturers maintain a uniform list price for their products and differ only in slight degrees in the discounts offered. The Badger Company and the Gammox Meter Company of Newark are the only two manufacturers not members of Ainsworth's exchange.

Kennelly for Home Product.

When finally the Badger company's machines had met the test and Commissioner Hayes had recommended their approval by the Board of Aldermen, Mr. Cetti sought Alderman Kennelly, to whose committee the matter had been referred. What follows is a part of Mr. Cetti's story of his talk with Alderman Kennelly, as he later related it in a letter to Mayor Hylan. He said:

"I met Alderman Kennelly in the

Aldermanic Chamber. He informed me that the reason he did not take any action on the approval of the Badger water meter was because the concerns manufacturing water meters in New York city objected to an outside meter company coming into New York city to sell their meters, on the ground that if the meter companies located in New York city were to go elsewhere to try and get meter business they would not get a chance to. "Right here I want to state (and I so told Alderman Kennelly) that I have been in the water meter business for the past thirty years and for the past fifteen years I have travelled in every section of the United States selling water meters, and I want to say that no meter company located in New York city is kept from competing with other meter companies located elsewhere in the United States."

Stone Wall at Every Turn.

"I may add that the lion's share of the meter business not only in the United States but abroad is done by three meter companies located in New York city. Furthermore there are five different makes of water meters manufactured outside of New York city being sold and used in New York city."

"I further said to Alderman Kennelly, 'Surely you will not stand in the way of permitting a first class water meter to be sold in New York city, and especially so after the meter in question had proved "satisfactory" after an endurance test conducted by the engineers of the Department of Water Supply of New York city, and as the result of which test Commissioner Nicholas J. Hayes has recommended to the Board of Aldermen the approval of the said Badger water meter, the entire subject matter is a business proposition and strictly on its merits.'"

"In answer, Alderman Kennelly said to me: 'The thing is not on its merits at all; you are one of them fellows who refuses to listen to reason and now you will not get it at all and I don't give a good God damn who asks for it.'"

Mr. Cetti said he followed this communication up with a second, inspired by Mayor Hylan's 1920 New Year's proclamation, in which he pledged "continued vigils for the people's rights." As in the first instance, Mr. Cetti said, he received an acknowledgment saying that the Mayor had referred the matter to Commissioner Hayes. Finally, in desperation, Mr. Cetti went to see Commissioner Hayes, who, he says, assured him that everything that could be done had been done by his office to obtain approval for his meter. Then he went to see Mayor Hylan himself.

"What happened?" asked Mr. Untermyer.

Made a "Party Issue."

The witness said that the Mayor explained that he had no jurisdiction over the Board of Aldermen. "I don't mix in their affairs, and they don't mix in mine," was the way the Mayor was quoted.

"I said to the Mayor," Mr. Cetti continued, "I appeal to you as Chief Magistrate of the city for a square deal." He said: "What do you mean by a square deal?" "Well," I said, "I thought perhaps you could help me. Under the charter you have unlimited power, as I read it. In fact your power has never been clearly defined." He (Mayor Hylan) said: "Well, now, I will speak to Alderman Kennelly only in a kindly way to see what I can do for you, but I won't promise anything."

One of the unusual features of Cetti's determined effort to get the approval of the Board of Aldermen for his meter was the party lineup in the board on the vote when the second resolution finally was brought out of Alderman Collins's committee without recommendation. The vote was 36 to 26 Democrats voting against it and 25 Republicans in favor. Mr. Untermyer wanted to know from former Alderman Allyn if he knew who was responsible for this peculiar political

alignment on such a measure. He replied that he did not.

"What opposition was there in the committee?" Mr. Untermyer asked. "None."

"Did you ever hear any opposition?" The former Alderman replied that the only opposition he heard expressed toward the Hayes approval of the Badger meter except that of Alderman John J. O'Rourke of Staten Island, who objected because the instrument was not made in New York, came from the Water Meter Manufacturers' Exchange and "a certain politician."

"Did you name him to the committee?" Mr. Untermyer asked.

"I did not."

"But they knew whom you meant?" "I don't think there was any doubt about that," the witness replied. Mr. Cetti's concluding testimony related how, falling in his effort to get favorable action from the Board of Aldermen, despite the favorable action by the Collins committee, he persuaded Assemblyman James F. Ely to introduce a resolution in the legislature placing the authority of approving water meters in the hands of the chief engineer of the water department, as he says is the case in most other large cities. The bill was passed and came down for approval by Mayor Hylan, who held a public hearing on it last Wednesday and disapproved the measure on Saturday.

MATERIAL MEN'S TRIAL SET FOR NEXT TUESDAY

Further Delay Owing to Conboy's Withdrawal Denied.

Although counsel for members of the Association of Builders in Mason Building Materials petitioned the court for a long adjournment to prepare further the case of the defense because of the withdrawal of Martin Conboy, chief of counsel, Justice Vernon M. Davis, in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, yesterday peremptorily set the trial of trial for next Tuesday. The date was on the calendar for yesterday, but postponement was requested by Mr. Conboy and other counsel for defendants.

Mr. Conboy represented twenty-six of the fifty-three material men charged with violation of the Donnelly anti-trust law. He announced his withdrawal in court yesterday. As he had been the principal defence counsel, he told the court that because of his withdrawal other attorneys for the defence should have more time to familiarize themselves with details of the case. It was announced that Edward E. McCall, former Supreme Court Justice, had been engaged in place of Mr. Conboy by nineteen of the defendants. The other seven Mr. Conboy represented are still without counsel.

MRS. HETTRICK'S LIFE UNHAPPY, SAYS SISTER

Never Sued for Divorce on Account of Religion.

Miss Alice M. White, sister of Mrs. Anna White Hettrick, said to be the wife of John T. Hettrick, was seen by reporters yesterday at her home, 76 Burnett place, East Orange, N. J., and discussed his sister's unhappy marriage to the "code of practice" lawyer who is now serving a term in the workhouse.

Miss White said that Hettrick married her sister in All Saints' Church, Brooklyn, and that they lived for several years at 403 Park place, Brooklyn. There was one son, Marshall, she said, who is now in the navy. They separated, she said, but her sister never got a divorce because of her religious beliefs and for the sake of the boy.

Mrs. Hettrick, according to her sister, has just recovered from a period of illness and is a teacher in the Ashland Public School in East Orange. Hettrick always pleaded poverty to his wife, she said, and threatened to stop the small allowance he had sent her if she exposed him. Mrs. Hettrick spent yesterday away from home.

EXAMINE HAGUE TO-DAY.

Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City to-day will face the rapid fire questions of John A. Bernhard, chief counsel for the Mackay legislative committee, which had been delving for some weeks into his administration and other interesting matters pertaining to Hudson county.

DIG INTO CLOTHING UNION, URGES MOSES

Senator Proposes Investigation of Sovietism He Scents in New York.

NEW FLOOD OF INQUIRIES

Soldier Relief Should Be Thoroughly Looked Into, Says Walsh.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Staff, Washington, D. C., April 28.—A formidable programme of Congress investigations is gradually taking form. In addition to the sweeping railroad inquiry already authorized by the Senate there are pending proposals to delve into the causes of agricultural depression, industrial stagnation and allied subjects. To-day two additional inquiries were proposed, one by Senator Walsh (Mass.), to investigate all soldier relief activities of the Government, and another by Senator Moses (N. H.), to dig up the causes of strikes in the clothing industry in New York and elsewhere.

The Moses resolution involves the possible spread of Sovietism in America, which the New Hampshire Senator believes is behind the strikes in the clothing industry. He proposes that the Committee on Education and Labor shall be directed to investigate as speedily as possible the conditions in the clothing industry of the United States, the working conditions, cause of industrial unrest, its bearing on the cost of clothing to the public, and the purposes, objects, methods and tactics of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and its relations, if any, with other political organizations in quasi political groups."

Senator Moses said in his resolution that in New York, the greatest clothing centre in the country, the production is only 25 per cent. of normal, due to strikes since last December.

"I am informed that the Amalgamated Workers," he continued, "are so well organized and so powerful as to control the industry. If this be true, public opinion will not fail to compel a reform."

"Among the collateral lines of information developed in the so-called Martens investigation were clear indications that the most pronounced centres of Sovietism and radicalism in the United States were in the branches of the Amalgamated. Their declaration of principles provides for the organization of workers along the lines of complete industries rather than individual trades."

He said it is different from the American Federation of Labor, and that "it is Sovietism."

"It is high time," he added, "that the people begin to understand what Sovietism in America means."

CLOTHING MAKERS TELL OF HIGH LABOR COST

Figures Misleading Because Retailing Is Not Included.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

ROCHESTER, April 28.—Clothing manufacturers here said to-day that labor

receives 24 or 25 per cent. of the cost of making clothing. That figure does not include the labor cost at the textile mills or the cost of alterations and incidental labor in the retail establishments. Manufacturers said that so many factors go to make up clothing cost that an offhand estimate would be usually impossible. Figures showing the wages of workmen, they said, are misleading to the consumer because they do not include the items entering into retailing. What the manufacturer pays his employees may have little to do with the

price to the consumer, and low-priced goods have a higher proportion of labor cost than the higher priced.

CLOSE ERIE REPAIR SHOPS.

HORNELL, N. Y., April 28.—Orders were issued to-day for the closing of all repair shops of the Erie Railroad between New York and Chicago for an indefinite period beginning next Monday. More than 5,000 men will be thrown out of work. General reductions in yard and road forces were also ordered effective at once.

REFUSES TO ORDER MEN BACK.

PITTSBURGH, Kan., April 28.—Alexander Howat, head of the Kansas business union, has rejected the demand of the international union that he order back to work striking employees of the Dean Coal Mining Company.



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